

U.S. 31 work finishes early



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Traffic flows along U.S. 31 near Three Mile Road. MDOT recently finished a \$10 million road improvement project.

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TRAVERSE CITY — A \$10.3 million road improvement project on U.S. 31 east of Traverse City wrapped up more than three weeks ahead of schedule.

Bayside Market Manager Teresa Campbell called the early finish "tremendous," especially after the market, located on U.S. 31 just east of the Traverse City State Park, endured a nearly 30-percent reduction in business

during the project's disruptive early phase.

"They were so far ahead of schedule, we really appreciate it," Campbell said. "Because it was pretty bad for a while." Michigan Department of Transportation officials contracted with Team Elmer's crews to complete the \$10.3 million project, which started April 6.

Crews reconstructed all five lanes on the state-owned highway from Three Mile Road to Holiday Road. That work was finished June 11, and was followed in September by resurfacing work on the highway from Holiday Road to the Grand Traverse resort.

MDOT officials anticipated the project would end on Nov. 1, but on Thursday they announced in a written statement that crews had finished the construction early.

Campbell complimented the work of Team Elmer's staff members. She said the construction firm even placed crew members at the mouths of busy driveways to help cars make left turns into the congested lines of cars that bogged down U.S. 31 during the busiest phase of the project.

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